

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 12, 1933.

An Editorial on Bishop Chartrand.

"He could have been an archbishop. He might have been a cardinal. He chose to remain in Indianapolis among the people he loved. To him the highest honor his church could give was the privilege of aiding and comforting his fellow-men. That is why members of all faiths invariably referred to Bishop Joseph Chartrand as "saintly".

"At any period during the Christian era, Bishop Chartrand's life would have been an inspiration. It was fortunate that he lived in these times when his great spirit could shine like a beacon in a city often troubled with greed and intolerance.

"In his later years he saw a perplexed and confused world about him. But he never was perplexed. He held before him the flaming example of the early Christians -- humility, self-abnegation, belief in the fundamental goodness of people.

"He was the type of man who would have been acutely embarrassed at such an editorial as this. He never paraded his good works. No hungry man of any creed ever was turned empty from his door. No one ever will know the number of boys and girls he sent through college. He never talked about such matters because he considered this side of his life as merely his Christian duty, unworthy of special note.

"Bishop Chartrand was known throughout Christendom for his devotion to the Eucharist. Only two or three churches in the world have as many daily communicants as the cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul in Indianapolis. For this he earned the highest recognition from Rome.

"His pastoral work is his greatest monument. Though his reputation grew greater with the passing of the years he never lost the human touch. The people of this city will always hold him close in their hearts. He baptized their babies. He married their young people. He closed the eyes of their dead.

"The knights of the middle ages gave their lives to journeying the world seeking the Holy Grail, symbol of the Christian ideal. Bishop Chartrand found it here in his own diocese." -- The Indianapolis Times.

The world is still sound at heart when a secular paper can publish such an editorial in a city with less than 10% of Catholics in its population. Bishop Chartrand took no part in civic affairs, although he was a good citizen and taught good citizenship to his people. He stayed in his cathedral, to sanctify his own people. Non-Catholics sought him out, however, and his conversions were numerous, especially among professional men. His life is a lesson that if you mind your own business and do the best you can with your job, the world will find you out.

If you have not yet offered Holy Communion for the soul of this saintly prelate, make up for your neglect tomorrow morning. It isn't that he needs prayers, but that you need to pray for him - and help other souls in purgatory - if you are to save yourself from the stigma of ingratitude. Whether you know it or not, he did something for every student that has come under the influence of Notre Dame, and it would be base not to show our appreciation.

Gaps in Adoration.

Thursday: 12:00.
12:00 (2), 3:30.

Saturday: 3:00, 3:30 (2).
Tuesday: 12:00, 3:30.

Monday: 8:00, 8:30 (2),

PRAYERS: Ill - Fathers O'Donnell and Carey; a nephew of Fr. Dolan; relatives of John J. Ryan and Gerald Molinari; Thomas Vaughn (injured in an accident). Deceased - an uncle of John Brust. Four special intentions.